

AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO  
CONVEY CERTAIN LANDS TO THE CHARLOTTE RUD-  
LAND DANSIE ASSOCIATION

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MARCH 27, 1958.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered  
to be printed

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Mrs. Frost, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,  
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 2230]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2230) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain lands to the Charlotte Rudland Dansie Association, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

Under S. 2230 the Secretary of the Interior will be directed to convey by patent  $1\frac{1}{4}$  acres of public land in Wyoming to the Charlotte Rudland Dansie Association. The association will not be required to pay any compensation to the United States, the land being valued at a few dollars at the most, but it will be required to maintain the land as a memorial grave site. Reverter to the Government is provided for if the site is not properly maintained. All mineral deposits in the land are reserved to the United States.

The Charlotte Rudland Dansie Association was formed by the Dansie family to maintain the grave site of a pioneer woman who died en route to Utah. The association has maintained the site under a special land use permit issued by the Bureau of Land Management. Under the authority of that permit the association has fenced the lands and placed a marker on them. It now desires greater tenure than is afforded by a revocable permit.

The report of the Interior Department advises that it has no objection to enactment of the bill. The text of the report is as follows:

2 CONVEY LANDS TO CHARLOTTE RUDLAND DANSIE ASSOCIATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
Washington, D. C., January 29, 1958.

Hon. CLAIR ENGLE,  
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,  
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR MR. ENGLE: This is in reply to your request for the views of this Department on S. 2230, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain lands to the Charlotte Rudland Dansie Association, which was passed by the Senate on August 30, 1957.

We would not object to the enactment of S. 2230.

S. 2230 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey by patent one and a quarter acres of public land in Wyoming to the Charlotte Rudland Dansie Association. The association would not be required to pay any compensation to the United States, but it would be required to maintain the land as a memorial grave site. All mineral deposits in the land would be reserved to the United States, along with the right to mine and remove the same under applicable laws and regulations and such terms and conditions as would not be inconsistent with the use of the lands as a memorial grave site. If at any time after the issuance of patent the association should attempt to transfer title to the lands, or control over them, to another without the consent of the Secretary, or if it should devote the lands to a use other than that of a grave site memorial to Charlotte Rudland Dansie, or if it should fail to maintain the site in a manner deemed fitting and proper by the Secretary, title to the lands would revert to the United States.

We understand that the association was formed by the Dansie family to maintain as a memorial the grave site of Mrs. Charlotte Rudland Dansie, a pioneer woman who died en route to Utah. The association has maintained the site under a special land-use permit (Wyoming 09539) issued by the Bureau of Land Management. Under the authority of that permit the association has fenced the lands and placed a marker on them. The association now desires greater tenure than can be afforded by a revocable permit.

The lands described in S. 2230 are located within an area of public lands being managed for their wildlife, grazing, and watershed values; such programs would not be injured by the disposal of this site. We know of no Federal interest in retaining the property in Federal ownership. Two statutes at present provide for the conveyance to public bodies without monetary consideration of land to be used as historic monument sites: Section 202 (k) (2) (C) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended (40 U. S. C., sec. 484 (k) (2) (C)), and section 2 of the act of June 14, 1926, as amended by the act of June 4, 1954 (43 U. S. C., sec. 869-1). The terms of S. 2230 are in most respects not inconsistent with the terms of these statutes. For example, all minerals would be reserved to the United States. However, both of those acts provide for reverts limited to 25 years' duration while S. 2230 provides for title to revert to the United States at any time in the future if the association fails to abide by certain conditions. Because of the nature of the

site and the nature of the association involved in S. 2230 we believe that such a provision unlimited in time is in the public interest.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

ROGER ERNST,  
*Assistant Secretary of the Interior.*

The House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee recommends that this bill be enacted.

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